WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for delivering a compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length into bone marrow derived osteoclast precursor cells, comprising transfecting said cells with said compound in the presence of a non-liposomal transfection agent.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said transfecting occurs during early differentiation of said bone marrow derived osteoclast precursor cells.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said bone marrow derived osteoclast precursor cells are cultured in the presence of RANK-ligand (RANKL) and macrophage colony stimulating factor (MCSF), wherein said early differentiation is after day two of said culturing.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said early differentiation is before day four of said culturing.

5. A method for delivering a compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length into a cell line whose cells are capable of differentiating into osteoclasts, comprising transfecting said cells with said compound in the presence of a non-liposomal transfection agent.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said cell line is RAW264.7.

7. A method for delivering a compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length into primary osteoclast cells, comprising transfecting said cells with said compound in the presence of a non-liposomal transfection agent.

8. A method for modulating osteoclast differentiation, comprising delivering a compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length into bone marrow derived osteoclast precursor cells, said compound targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK and capable of binding a region of said nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK, wherein the osteoclast

differentiation of said bone marrow derived osteoclast precursor cells is modulated by said compound.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said delivering comprises transfecting said compound into said bone marrow derived osteoclast precursor cells.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of RANK mRNA by at least 10% upon transfection.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said transfecting is performed in the presence of a non-lipisomal transfection agent.

12. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 11, wherein said non-lipisomal transfection agent is one of Effectene® and FuGENE 6.

13. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 9, wherein said compound comprises 12 to 50 nucleobases in length.

14. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 9, wherein said compound comprises 15 to 30 nucleobases in length.

15. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 9, wherein said compound comprises an oligonucleotide.

16. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 9, wherein said compound comprises an antisense oligonucleotide.

17. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 9, wherein said compound comprises a DNA oligonucleotide.

18. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 9, wherein said compound comprises RNA oligonucleotide.

19. The method of claim 1, 5, 7, or 9, wherein said compound comprises a chimeric oligonucleotide.

20. The method of claim 1, 5, 7 or 9, wherein at least a portion of said compound hybridizes with RNA to form an oligonucleotide-RNA duplex.

21. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is at least 70% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

22. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is at least 80% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

23. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is at least 90% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

24. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is at least 95% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

25. The method of claim 9, wherein said compound is at least 99% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

26. The method of claim 1, 5, or 7, wherein said compound is targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK and capable of binding a region of said nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein said compound is at least 70% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

28. The method of claim 21, wherein said compound is at least 80% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

29. The method of claim 21, wherein said compound is at least 90% complementary

to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

30. The method of claim 21, wherein said compound is at least 95% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.

31. The method of claim 21, wherein said compound is at least 99% complementary to said region of the nucleic acid molecule encoding RANK.